

FY 2016
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **February 3, 2017**.

(NOTE: Italicized comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)

Project Name	Salmon River District Abandoned Mine Closures
Date the Decision is needed (m/d/y)	June 1, 2017
District name (or "Forestwide")	Salmon River District
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add their name, phone # and email, but <u>an FS employee MUST be the proponent and point of contact</u>.</i>	Marty Jones, (208) 983-5158 martinjones@fs.fed.us
Legal Location <i>T, R, and Sec must be entered.</i>	T29N R5E, SW1/4 of NE ¼ Section 19 T25N, R4E, SW ¼ Section 7
County(ies) where project located?	Idaho County
District Ranger / Line Officer's Name <i>Responsible for signing the Decision document</i>	Jeffrey Shinn
Is this project covered in a current NEPA project?	No
Watershed and subwatershed the project is located? <i>Clearwater, Hangman/Palouse/Rock, Lower North Fork Clearwater, Lochsa</i>	Gold Lake Creek, Tributary to Little Slate Creek Wickiup Creek, Tributary to South Fork Clearwater River

<p>In which CE Category does this project fit?</p> <p><i>Provide citation (ex. 36CFR 220.6(d)(x) or 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)).</i></p> <p><i>See - O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\CE Categories</i></p>	<p>36 CFR 220.6(e)(8) Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads. Examples include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Authorizing geophysical investigations which use existing roads that may require incidental repair to reach sites for drilling core holes, temperature gradient holes, or seismic shot holes; (ii) Gathering geophysical data using shot hole, vibroseis, or surface charge methods; (iii) Trenching to obtain evidence of mineralization; (iv) Clearing vegetation for sight paths or from areas used for investigation or support facilities; (v) Redesigning or rearranging surface facilities within an approved site; (vi) Approving interim and final site restoration measures; and (vii) Approving a plan for exploration which authorizes repair of an existing road and the construction of 1/3 mile of temporary road; clearing vegetation from an acre of land for trenches, drill pads, or support facilities.
<p><u>If submitting using a “36 CFR 220.6 (d)” category above,</u> does the DR/Line Officer want a Letter to the File (<i>not scoped to public</i>) or a Decision Memo (<i>scoped to public</i>)? LTF DM</p>	
<p>List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.</p> <p>MA12</p>	

What are the desired conditions for the Management Area(s)?

Management Area 12 consists primarily of forested lands. Timber productivity classes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are represented as are a variety of commercially valuable, softwood tree species. A variety of physical and biological environments occur as determined by soil, slope, aspect, elevation (approximately 3,800-6,500 feet), and climatic factors. This management area occurs across the entire nonclassified portion of the Forest. Although this management area consists primarily of productive forest land, there are minor inclusions of nonforest and low productivity forest lands.

B. Goals

Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis. Develop equal distribution of age classes to optimize sustained timber production. Manage at levels and intensities consistent with the schedules described in this plan to provide for other multiple uses and resources. Manage for roaded natural recreation.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 109,444 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 310,544 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 114,225 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning.

Is the project in a Roadless Area? No

* If yes, answer the questions in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a [Briefing Paper](#) - note special requirements for maps. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers [prior to scoping](#).

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? No

Does the project involve road construction, reconstruction, temporary roads, or haul routes?
No

Are Municipal Watersheds located in the project area? No

Are there floodplains or wetlands in the project area? No

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes

Is the project in the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area? No

Describe the existing condition of the project area.

There are two existing open mine adits on The Salmon River Ranger District. These structures pose a hazard to the public. See discussion of proposed action for details.

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action?

The purpose of the proposed action is the permanent closure of two hazardous mine sites. The need is to eliminate public safety risks associated with two adits while maintaining wildlife habitat and the historical integrity of the sites.

Abandoned mine adits and shafts typically contain hazards such as unstable rock and decayed supports, deadly gas and lack of oxygen, explosive and toxic chemicals, hidden vertical drops and the potential for becoming lost in multiple dark tunnels. Shafts pose a particular hazard as they can be easily walked or driven into by unsuspecting forest users who can then be trapped, seriously injured or even killed by what could be a very long fall.

Describe the Proposed Action:

The Salmon River Ranger District proposes to close two hazardous mine sites. Each of these sites is discussed separately, as follows:

The Windjammer adit is located in the Florence Basin area in the Gold Lake Creek drainage. It is located approximately 300 feet west of FS Rd 643 in a small gully, and is difficult to locate due to extensive mining activity in the area. The adit is in highly weathered granodiorite material and poses a high safety risk due to potential collapse. Due to the possibility that it may be occupied by various species of bats, it is proposed that the adit will be closed by the construction of a bat friendly steel gate across the portal. There is no road or trail access to the adit, though it could easily be accessed overland by ATV. Equipment used for this project would include Equipment needed would include ATVs and trailers, portable gas powered electric generator, electric cutoff saw, electric welder, steel bar stock and square tubing for constructing the gate, and appropriate hand tools. Ground disturbance for this closure would be nil; only a minor amount of material would need to be moved from the portal by hand digging.

The Windjammer adit can be reached by taking Forest Service Road #221 from Grangeville to Forest Road #394, then a short distance to the project area.

The Ophir Mine adit is located in the Wickiup Creek drainage on the South Fork Clearwater River face. It is directly adjacent to decommissioned Forest Road # 1105G. The adit is open for some distance and can be easily entered, therefore poses a risk to public safety. As it is possible the adit could contain habitat for various bat species, a bat friendly gate will be installed to prevent access by forest users. Equipment needed would include ATVs and trailers, portable gas powered electric generator, electric cutoff saw, electric welder, steel bar stock and square tubing for constructing the gate, and appropriate hand tools.

Road 1105G may still be usable by ATV and could possibly be used as an access route. In the event that Road 1105G is not passable, equipment would need to be either hauled overland down a ridge from Forest Road 1105 or airlifted in and out by helicopter.

The Ophir Mine adit is accessed by taking State Highway 14 to the Peasley Creek Road (FSR #469) to Forest Road #648, then west on Road #648 to Forest Road #1105, then via Road 1105 to either a staging area on Road #1105 or on to decommissioned Road # 1105G, then on 1105G to the Ophir Mine adit.

Both of these projects would be accomplished by building a steel gate onsite that will be permanently attached to the rock walls of the portal by drilling and inserting steel pins into the portal walls, floor and ceiling, and welding the gate to the pins. These gates will be constructed in such a manner as to allow access by mining claimants if needed.

These proposals could be accomplished in one of three ways: First, the work would be done by a Forest Service crew who specializes in closing hazardous mine openings with support by Forest personnel and equipment as needed; secondly, the work could be done by contractor; and thirdly, a combination of the above could be utilized. Who the work would be done by is dependent on the timing of the project and the availability of personnel.

Funding has been allocated for these projects and they would be implemented as soon as possible. Both of these projects could easily be completed in two days, once work is begun. Work is proposed to be done during the 2017 field season.

No additional permits should be needed for these projects, and no coordination with other agencies should be required. Mining claimants who potentially could be affected by these activities will be notified.

List all design criteria/mitigation measures to be included with the proposed action.

Design criteria for these closures will be furnished as a separate document Prior to the analysis of this project.

What Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used with this project?

State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining

Best management practices for weed management and water quality as applicable.

Specific* individuals / groups / businesses who should be contacted (with their mailing and email addresses) during the Scoping Process.

Individual mining claimants who may be affected. Proponent will furnish contact information of these individuals for scoping.

(* NOTE: tribal / state / county governments and agencies will already be contacted)

Please attach to your project submission email, separate from this form, a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) per the instructions outlined below. Do not give links to maps or datasets. Please make sure that the layers can be turned on/off on your PDF map(s).

At least one map, with (preferably) a “portrait” orientation, showing the project location/activities as points, e.g. culvert, mineral exploration site, etc.; lines, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc.; and/or the project boundary as a polygon, e.g. stand, treatment area, etc. Do not use a point when treating an area, use a polygon.

The map(s) need to include identifying features, such as towns, roads, trails, rivers/streams, geophysical landmarks, etc. to identify where the project is on the landscape. The features to include are up to you, as long as they are clearly labeled.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer (see below*). This will standardize the appearance of the maps for scoping. Please do not add contour lines to the map unless needed. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.

The preferred scale is 1:24000; however, if the project area can’t be shown at 1:24K, a map showing the entire project area, and additional maps showing the parts of the project in detail are acceptable. Conversely, if the 1:24K scale is too large (i.e. the location appears as a tiny point or a thin line on a large landscape), use a smaller scale to provide project detail(s) while ensuring that the project location is identifiable.

The map(s) should include, at a minimum, a Title (i.e. the project name - do not include ‘Exhibit A’, etc.); a legend with the feature/activity layer(s) clearly labeled, e.g. culvert, fence line, treatment area, etc.; a scale in miles (not km) using full miles (ex. 0_0.25_0.5_1.0 miles; ending at 0.5 miles okay); and a north arrow.

The main point is, the map(s) should clearly show where the project is located on the Forest and what activity or activities are being proposed.

** The Small NEPA geodatabase contains feature classes, including the Forest Visitor Map, that can be used for map creation. The geodatabase is found at:*

T:\FS\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\GIS\SmallNEPA.gdb

If you need help with accessing and/or working with the geodatabase in GIS, contact your Zone GIS Specialist (first) or you can contact Jim Lutes at jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists want shapefile(s) of the project’s proposed activity(ies) before they will begin their analyses. The shapefile needs to be labeled with the Project Name and Feature, ex. X culvert replace, X road decom, X thinning area, etc.

Please send the shapefile including the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml – to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us prior to or when submitting this form.

Note: A location where the shapefile(s) can be found/downloaded does not meet the obligation. The project shapefile(s) must be submitted per the instructions above or the project will be delayed until they are sent.

*Note: Providing the shapefile(s) **does not substitute** for providing the map(s).*

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource and your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mhays01@fs.fed.us; 983-4028
 Cultural – Steve Lucas, slucas@fs.fed.us; 983-4040
 Fisheries – Christine Stewart, christinestewart@fs.fed.us; 963-4211
 Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, cvalle@fs.fed.us; 963-4203
 Minerals – Marty Jones, martinjones@fs.fed.us; 983-5158
 Recreation – Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us; 935-4270
 Soils – Robert Bergstrom, robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us; 963-4202 (temporary)
 Wildlife – Jim Lutes, jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202

Project in Roadless Area

<p>What is the Roadless Area name?</p> <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p>Idaho Roadless Area (IRA) Name:</p> <p>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</p>
<p>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management classification because permitted activities vary by classification.</p> <p><i>Classifications include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	<p>Classification:</p>
<p>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i></p>	
<p>Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i></p>	
<p>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i></p>	

Project Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, and/or Haul Routes

Note: Specialists will address items 9-11 (*in italics*) below.

ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS	YES / NO	MITIGATION MEASURE/COMMENTS
1. Will road construction or reconstruction be required? Type of road and length.		
2. Will temporary roads be needed?		
3. Will road maintenance be needed? Who will perform?		
4. Will there be a change to the current road restrictions?		
5. Are haul roads part of an established snowmobile network?		
6. Are there public safety concerns for roads, trails, or other road improvements?		
7. Are there other improvements which will require protection?		
8. Does the area currently meet Forest Plan standards for soils?		
9. <i>Will the project impact elk security?</i>		
10. <i>Will the project or log haul impact winter range?</i>		
11. <i>Will the project impact critical elk summer range?</i>		

Additional Information: